Import of coal by MMTC from China

771. SHRI S.M. LALLAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation is importing coal from China presently;

(b) if so, the details of such import of coal;

(c) whether the imports of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation will have any negative impact on Indian Coal;

(d) the amount of coal in quantity and financial terms that is being imported by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation from China in current financial year; and

(e) the plans to import coal from China by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation in the next fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MMTC Limited (formerly Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation) is importing Steam Coal (Non-Coking) of high calorific value (above 6700 K.Cal./Kg-Air Dried Basis) and low ash content, for thermal power plants and Coking Coal of low ash content for steel plants.

(c) The imports of MMTC Limited will not have any negative impact on Indian Coal since there is a big gap in demand and supply of Coking Coal, while Steam Coal is required for blending with Indian Coal to bring down the ash content to comply with the norms in terms of Notification issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) MMTC Limited imported around 10 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of Steam Coal from China during April to December 2004 with a C&F value of US$51 Million, and also imported around 0.65 LMT of Coking Coal valued at US$11.8 Million.

(e) MMTC's plan to import Steam Coal from China during 2005-06 depends on its availability in China.

Proposals of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council

772. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) has submitted a policy paper to take an aggressive